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THE
GROUNDS

THE
GROUNDS
OF
ALDERMEN WILKES AND BOYDELL'S
PROPOSED
PETITIONS FOR PEACE
EXAMINED AND REFUTED.

GROUNDS

ALGERNON WILKES AND BOYDELL

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1944

BRUCE REEVES, Esq.

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LONDON

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THE
GROUNDS

OF

ALDERMEN WILKES AND BOYDELL'S

PROPOSED

PETITIONS FOR PEACE,
EXAMINED AND REFUTE D.

By J. REEVES, Esq.

Associate yourselves, O ye People, and ye shall be broken in pieces! Take Council together, and it shall come to nought!—Speak the Word, and it shall not stand! for God is with us.

ISAIAH,

Sampson hath quit him!—If like Sampson!—And heroickly, hath finish'd a life heroick!!!

MILTON.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR WAL^R. DOWNESS, NEAR FLEET-STREET.

1795.

THE GROUNDS

3c.

ALBANY, N.Y. AND BOSTON.

ADVERTISEMENTS having been printed abroad from two public communities of Citizens, when the supposed emergencies and misdeeds of the time, as a citizen of Westminster, thus deliver my opinion as brief and plain as I can, for the information of my neighbours and friends, and as I sincerely purport and believe, for the Public Good.

171

The Advertisements and Communities to which I refer, were as follow :
The one from Chappin, &c. or the "Ward of Cheap," as it is called in the language of the City Corporation.

PRINTED FOR W. B. BOWEN, 171, FLEET STREET, LONDON.

THE GROUNDS,

&c.

ADVERTISEMENTS having been bruited abroad from TWO PUBLIC COMMUNITIES of Citizens, upon the supposed emergencies and miseries of the time, I, as a citizen of Westminster, thus deliver my opinion as brief and plain as I can, for the information of my neighbours and friends, and as I sincerely purpose and believe, for the PUBLIC GOOD.

The ADVERTISEMENTS and Communities to which I refer, were as follow :

The one from Cheapfide, &c. or the “Ward of Cheap,” as it is called in the language of the City Corporation.

B

The

The other from *Fleet-street*, or as the corporation phrase is, the ward of **FARRINGTON Without**.

The **CITIZENS** of **CHEAPSIDE**, in their resolution against the **WAR** curiously pronounced upon it, more like *tradesmen* than politicians ; for instead of the words,

“ **JUST, NECESSARY AND GLORIOUS,**”

They took the liberty of stigmatizing it thus,

“ **AN INJURIOUS, RUINOUS, and DE-
STRUCTIVE WAR.**”

In the other Ward, the **CITIZENS** of **Fleet-street**, &c. more simply, but not less impetuously perhaps, clamoured for

“ **AN IMMEDIATE PEACE.**”

The **TRADESMEN** of both districts, viz. **Cheapside** and **Fleet-street**, are undeniably a very opulent, and a very useful body of men.

Therefore,

Therefore, they have additional right, to speak—and too probably, what they speak, might, if not in time refuted, be enthusiastically heard.

The men who presided at these meetings were,

JOHN WILKES, Citizen of London,

JOHN BOYDELL, ditto.

John Boydell, is a Citizen, who, on some past occasions, has deserved well of his country—for, luckily hitting upon the mode by which print-making and print-selling were brought to prosper. A large number of artizans have lived, some of them not ill, by ingenious labour; and, the shop-keeper, while thus driving a thriving trade, has brought, with much profit to himself, some gain to the community.

John Wilkes, the other man, so astonish-

ingly forward upon the matter, is another Citizen, who, accidentally, has been of some public good——

For, to give the Devil his due,

It was he, who, by something like political courage and perseverance, put an end to GENERAL WARRANTS !—A very formidable engine in the hand of power, not capable of any good purpose whatsoever, and too easily converted to all purposes, most evil.

But Mr. WILKES and Mr. BOYDELL, however otherwise accidentally meritorious, may be here professionally advocates, whose character is dubious.

For, Mr. Boydell, being a man in great trade, may argue as a tradesman only ! Like other extensive manufacturers and dealers in Norwich, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and Manchester, &c. &c. he may take it into his head to think only of himself,

of

of his own fortune and family forsooth ! And,
 O scandal to the name of that society who call
 themselves Christians, and King's Friends,
 would suffer the ideas of *barter* of mere bar-
 gain and sale, to get the better of the just and
 necessary visions of **MILITARY**—*Fame* !

Though indeed, I declare, one Printseller
 has been heard to say, that “ the consequences,
 “ the *beneficial* consequences of the present
 “ famous war, have been long as conspicuous
 “ in their shop, as in the shops and ware-
 “ houses of other leading manufactures !—
 “ And that they have now, thank God, all
 “ **SAFE IN THEIR SHOP**, prints and en-
 “ gravings, worth 30 or 40,000 l. sterling !
 “ Prints and engravings, which, but for the
 “ providential interruptions of commerce by
 “ the present righteous and glorious war,
 “ might have been now hawking about all
 “ over Europe, at such prices as could be got
 “ for them !—To say nothing of bad debts
 “ and

"and other calamities inseparable from
"trade!"

A more wise and grateful confession could not well be made; and it is therefore the more astonishing that similar emotions should not have come forth from BOYDELL's mind.

As for *Mr. Wilkes*, what miserable bias may have made him look awry, is not quite so apparent!—He is, or he soon will be, the FATHER of the CITY, as he is the guardian of the City-Youth, and like every other father of their people, over the whole Continent of Europe, his weaknesses are those which arise from downright virtue.—The humanity, the piety, of a nature, if possible, too refined, really righteous over-much!

If the citizens, Messrs. Wilkes and Boydell, nay, if all the citizens of CHEAPSIDE and FLEET-STREET, were the persons alone to

be

be consulted :—if peace would do them good, and war do harm to all, then a sense of duty, in the love of our neighbour, I like them, would venture to call it, a **RUINOUS AND DESTRUCTIVE WAR** — I like them, would urge **IMMEDIATE PEACE** !—

But the **LOYAL POLITICIAN** will not be let-off so. He will weigh, like a *modern judge*, all things in the balance. And nothing that he can lay his hand upon, will escape him !

The **GAZETTE** alone, might suffice to evince the benefits and blessings of the War !

—The **Gazette** alone, that mirror of A **WITNESS** never purjured, whose powers of memory and invention never fail him !

What vast entire volumes of our fellow-creatures made eternally happy ! what promotions upon promotions !

Many

Many a *school-boy* has thus been happily rewarded for not breaking out of bounds, and been enabled at *once* to write "CAPTAIN before he joined his corps, and more than one pretty ensign, with a speed of metamorphosis, that laughs at grubs and butterflies, was upon the wing as a lieutenant-colonel, in less than nine cloudy idle months !

Those promotions, &c. their precise numbers, any one with patience and arithmetic enough may state—By fifty new regiments FIFTEEN HUNDRED NEW OFFICERS are made happy ! To *say nothing of the men* !!—

And there may be, again as many more, if there be, as every good subject must hope there may be, LETTERS OF SERVICE for fifty or sixty regiments more !—a hope which must be disinterested as it is wise ; for a London tradesman, like me, cannot be supposed to profit by receiving a commission.—(It is not a commission of bankruptcy that I speak of)—

nor

nor politically by the *influence*, through which a commission may be given.

The BANKRUPTCIES indeed, in some sort, tarnish a little of the glory in our Gazettes, and make it not come quite so cheap.

But they are not so very numerous as some people imagine.—More than *twenty-five Bankrupts*, I never saw in any one day's Gazette! and I understand that there never were more than about NINE HUNDRED within the year!—

And even these, are not to be posted only on *one* side of the Ledger. Surely every *advocate* for the WAR can make it well appear, that like a militia and a navy, much of the money by bankruptcies must be spent at home, among other useful citizens, viz. bailiffs, law-stationers, publicans, agents and attorneys—not to mention the stamp officers and

and chancery-men, whom every body must with grateful admiration wish, to *meet with their deserts.*

The CONTRACTORS and COMMISSIONERS are another set of men, equally respectful and needful. And how, but by the WAR, the just and necessary War, could there have been time and place, for their merits or for their rewards?

Every ENGLISHMAN must know how to prize names and objects so independent and very venerable; and as the black-cattle of MELLESH, and the tent-equipage of TROTTER.—And it is also by the glorious possibilities of the WAR that we may vaunt, having in the *pay*, and who should not call it the *service* of Englishmen, the whole corps of Commissaries which we have!—a whole corps very doughty, and not very dear.

In this eulogy, I have not leisure nor paper
enough

enough to *specify* all the *Subaltern* Commissaries and Pay-masters, no doubt as useful and immaculate as their chief! I can only state, as one happy consequence of the WAR; and we wish them joy of all their pay and all their perquisites, that to the following worthy men, we are thus enabled to bestow to their known merit, the small tribute of eight and five guineas a day, viz.

Commissary General WATSON

Deputy Ditto MESURIER.

These are for the triumphant army, which *did* exult under the command of H. R. H. D. of YORK.

While for the *vast* army of 6400, men, which were ordered so *wisely* into Ostend, when *White's Brigade* were ordered out of Ostend. The sapient *gratitude* of Englishmen has displayed a similar sense of merit, in giving the same requital to Commissary

General DAVISON, and to Commissary General Doctor DORNFORD. The first, the incorruptible friend of Mr. Nepean—The second, the champion of *asperfed* innocence, in the University of GOTTINGEN.

If it had not been for the War, all the great services of these great men might, alas ! have been overlooked !—for ever.

The FRENCH REPUBLIC may affect indifference to *final causes*. But a mind profiting from history, sacred and *prophane*, will be satisfied that there is nothing in vain ; and though in the tropical latitudes, men may deplore the pestilence by which their fellow-creatures are no more, they must acknowledge that thence there may be appointed food for animals which otherwise might not have been able to leave the sharks, the sword-fish, and each other monstrous voracity in the great unfathomable deep.

From the mention of these COMMISSARIES, there

there is another cause of NATIONAL EXULTATION,

1. Because the *double* establishment of commissaries, must prove the *double* army to exist.

2. That the two armies of his HIGHNESS and Lord MOIRA, are not only all alive, but all *well*—perfectly well!—And never can have been otherwise than well!—

For, the physicians to Lord *Moira's* staff, and who are candidates for half-pay, Dr. Hayes, Dr. Mathew; and another, are in England, and have been there very comfortably all the time, since the troops embarked so wisely to Ostend.—Another opportunity for rewarding merit, given by this *bounty-full* WAR!

CORSICA is another theme on which I, as an advocate for War, may be proud.—Such
men

men as *Sir Gilbert Elliot, Sir James Es-*
skine, Frederic North, &c. &c. are rare.

They are as consistent and incorruptible, as
they are enlightened and useful. Who must
not rejoice when such men may get what
they deserve?—The two first have but Ten
Pounds a Day!—The third has 1,500 l. a
year.

But what had they *before the war*?

What could they have had, if there had
been NO WAR AT ALL?

The INNKEEPERS, in Flanders and Ger-
many, the War has contributed to bless.—

Our ambassador, as we all know, “Took
“*nothing but his travelling charges, for*
“*himself.*”

The Army Remittances made the fortune
of another set of men.—I do not know too,
but the War might have been an encourage-
ment

ment to the loyal subjects whom we hear in our streets, crying out, as the buyers of "Bad
" shillings."

The *Army Tailors* too must have had many a good *Job*.—And indeed, what can be like clothing the naked?—and how many, by the unaccountable *decay of some manufactures* could not otherwise have *been* clothed!

A glorious effort of bounty this! and not confined, to our own destitute poor, but expended with equal virtue on other *Freemen*; the unsuborned *heroes* of HANOVER and HESSE!

The *improvement of SURGERY* is another benefit of the WAR. What a quantity of subjects for anatomy! and more wonderful still, all of them, the *enemy*!—Vide *Gazettes*.—

The

The silence of our Gazette, proves *our* own list of KILLED and WOUNDED to be little or nothing !

Though OUR DRAFTS OF MEN, even in MALBOROUGH'S wars, were comparatively small—

For, added to our ARMIES existing BEFORE THE WAR, the numbers of NEW RECRUITS, officially attested in Britain and Ireland, probably have been more, certainly not less than
TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN !

The numbers of *Recruits in London* are not yet detected ; but there, and in almost all populous towns, the numbers may be imagined, by the War's beneficial consequences in the districts which follow :

In DUBLIN, Oct. 12, 1794, the numbers of RECRUITS attested were 103,000 men and boys.

At

At MANCHESTER near 18,000 of the manufacturers had been so happily provided for. At BIRMINGHAM above 16,000 workmen; and at BATH and BRISTOL, about 10,000 men had thus been charitably blessed; with rapidity promoted probably to everlasting renown.

A moral triumph this, which, but for the War could not have beamed forth, to cheer the sympathetic raptures of the truly pious heart.—Each heart, the proper antithesis of the French Republicans, and philosophers in France!

What the WAR has done for the HEALING ART has been unexpected indeed.—The sick and wounded being kept as they were, in open bylindres and coal barges, in the muddy creeks and common sewers, at Antwerp, &c. has fully proved to the satisfaction of the curious, the purveyors and commanders, the innocence of stagnant MEPHITIC AIR!—While the immense multitude of

D

other

other invalids, hastily removed in open wag-
gons, from St. Gillians, Tournay, &c. &c. to
Antwerp, from thence to the Moerdyk; from
thence to Dort; from thence to Rhenen;
from thence to Deptford;—from thence to
Chelsea, and from thence, to—where we
cannot say.—All must demonstrate equally
in favour of our humanity and skill, that
there is nothing like *irritation and motion*,
for the treatment of sore legs, COMPOUND-
FRACTURES, and GUN-SHOT WOUNDS!

The FINE arts, it has been disloyally said,
have been maimed by the WAR; and malig-
nant spirits, who seem to love the repetitions
of calamity, say that our manufacturing
towns have been thereby half ruined.

But even of BIRMINGHAM and MAN-
CHESTER themselves, it must be replied—
“What are all the manufacturers there, how-
“ever extensive they formerly may have
“been, to millers, farmers and graziers?”

BREAD

BREAD is the Staff of Life.—And among the best friends of our unrivalled constitution, must be those who give an increase of price or value to the beast of the field, and the fruits of the earth!—and when was the price so great as since the TWO GLORIOUS WARS with the REPUBLICS of AMERICA and FRANCE?

BREAD is now two-pence half farthing per pound!—and there is every reason to expect it may be higher still!

The price of BUTCHERS MEAT is in proportion.—Some is as high as eight-pence per pound.

Before the last successful war, neither the baker nor the butcher could get half as much money for their handy works!

During the reign of his late most excellent Majesty, BREAD went for a penny a po and butchers meat, alas! was at no

more than three pence!—Cheese too and barley, were not a third of their present happy price.

O! my Fellow Citizens, it is certain, that the useful arts of the farmer, miller, baker, butcher, &c. &c. never were *so* encouraged, never could have been *so* encouraged, but for the Beneficent Influence of WAR.

Opportunities for distinguishing ourselves in War, I hope, never will cease.—Therefore, I approve of “our *Heaven-born* Minister’s” idea of lending SIX MILLIONS to the EMPEROR.—And *therefore* as a friend to the KING OF CORSICA, (I do not mean King THEODORE, or his descendants, who have properly been cashiered and discharged) but “*Great George* “*our King*”—who must be accepted, as he is acceptable to all!—LITERALLY ELECTED by the UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE of that Free People.

Added

Added to its being a cause of distinguishing ourselves in war, Corsica must be equally a blessing in the way of peace.—Perhaps when we took GIBRALTER, it was hardly a better *Job*.

WORKS OF CHARITY, as well as of necessity are in the same hopeful way from the War!

The POOR-RATES are a blessing peculiar to our glorious constitution, equally glorious in church and state. Now the WAR, thank God, has enabled us to AUGMENT THE POOR RATES about a third.—That is, about ONE MILLION sterling a year!

And there is every reason to hope that the nation will be more pitiful still, if the HAPPY CONTINUANCE OF THE WAR, be not perversely interrupted, from furnishing matter and occasion!

For

For these and other reasons, which probably may be the cause of another publication, I thus oppose the stir now making by Citizen WILKES, and Citizen BOYDELL, with the other Citizens of Fleet-street and Cheap-side for immediate PEACE.

Let all, like each of his Majesty's ministers, I for ONE, VOTE FOR WAR! Look to number one.

I am sure, I think I have proved, WAR is a good THING!

A WAR, just and necessary, as much now as ever!—A WAR, where the laurels are equally cheap and precious!—A WAR, which in POLITICS and MORALS, in the CABINET and in the FIELD has with SIMILAR FELICITY FINISHED OUR CHARACTERISTIC FAME!—A WAR, which, for the PUBLIC WELFARE, and for PRIVATE PROPERTY, is equally A VERY GOOD THING!!

Jan. 8th, 1795.

J. REEVES.

Postscript.

Postscript.—After putting my name to the above, the following intelligence has occurred to me, and surely it is too *cheering* to be omitted.—

1. Such have been the triumphs of our voracious and Heaven-born administration, in finance, as in foreign politics, that the Civil List establishment is *only* in the *fourth* quarter of arrear!—In the American War there were six quarters in arrear!!—Not to mention the various grants for the payment of the Civil List Debts!

2. That a warrant, issuing to give Mr. White 2000*l.* a year, instead of 500*l.* which he used to have, is a splendid panegyric on the national power and will, that there is a sense of merit, and an ability to reward it.—

This indeed is also comfortably asserted in the rich reversion to *Master Murray*, the

infant son of the venerable and rapid Lord Mansfield.

3. That there are but 8000 sick in the hospital at Rhenen—and that the Hanoverians and Hessians so charitably in our pay, are not all lost—there actually remain between four and five thousand of the first 24,000 mercenaries, and about 3000 of the last 14,000 mercenaries.—Whom Heaven preserve.

* * Enumerating the blessings we have from the WAR, this hasty refutation of Citizen WILKES, and Citizen BOYDELL, was so unfortunate as to make mention of the MAGAZINES!

This was not ingratitude, &c. but forgetfulness.—Our donations to the enemy, from our Magazines, were so stupendously magnificent, that, if a *Christian Hero* can be vain, he may for a moment, plume himself upon them!

For,

For to feed an enemy when hungry, to
 clothe him when naked, is, we know the per-
 fection of evangelical praise!

Now where was this praise more volumi-
 nously earned, that when we laid down our
 Magazines for the French at

VALENCENNES! Charleroi

Condè DENDERMONDE!

St. Gillians Ostend

Ypres Ghent

Bruges BRUSSELLES and

Tournay ANTWERP.

At Dendermonde, &c. the magnificence
 in this sort of sacrifice, which the WAR, and
 the War alone, enabled us to make, is well

known to all the Commissaries and Com-
 manders, from Coffin, Esq. to Brooke Wat-
 son, from Mr. St. Leger to his Highness.

And at Ostend, at Ghent, Bruges and at
 ANTWERP our kindness was no less notorious-
 ly acknowledged by the enemy!

E

In

In all these benefactions to the enemy, must have amounted to several millions sterling!—and all put in our power by the war!

AGRICULTURE too, it ought to have been owned has had new and copious illustrations from the **WAR**—Particularly in the important article of **NAVIGATION**.

It is literally true, that a vast extent of country, twenty-seven miles long and nine miles wide, from the lines of **UTRECHT** to the high grounds of **GUELDERLAND**, from **WAGENINGEN** to the **ZUYDER ZEE**, has been thus enabled, to boast of now, completely

BEING UNDER WATER!

N. B. Those philosophic Republicans, if they get these, cannot counteract this blessing in less than ten or a dozen years.

Such

" Such is their meed,—their honours thus secure,

" **WHOSE ART** yield objects, and **WHOSE WORKS**

" **ENDURE.**"

Thus out of your own mouth do I now
judge you. For these are the words of that
Poet and Politician, Richard Brinsley **SHE-**
RIDAN, Esq.—And he, O Citizen Wilkes,
is the man to whom the Citizens of Farring-
don Without have resolved to give Thanks
and Praise.

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